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January 27, 2020

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael M. Kubayanda, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Commissioner Ann C. Fisher  
Commissioner Ashley E. Poling  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Parkinson's Foundation and the 1 million Americans with Parkinson's disease (PD) that we serve, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases – which are estimated to reach seven percent per year – will have a negative impact on the Parkinson's Foundation's ability to carry out its mission and will not reform the Postal Service.

Direct mail solicitations and educational cultivation pieces are a critical component of the Parkinson's Foundation work. Today, direct mail generates \$4 million in revenue to the foundation, remains the largest source of new donors and serves as a vehicle to educate our donors on the impact of their gifts. In 2019, we spent over \$1 million on outgoing postage and generation of first class return postage. Fulfilling our mission is critically dependent on our ability to operate and develop resources efficiently and in a cost-effective way.

The Parkinson's Foundation is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to less revenue, limiting our reach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on critical research funding, ensuring quality care for everyone and educating the Parkinson's community through essential programs and services.

The Parkinson's Foundation urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lehr'.

John L. Lehr  
President and Chief Executive Officer